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Mary, Our Mother and Our Example

Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop

During the month of May, we turn at least a part of our spiritual attention to focus on the Mother of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary. During this month we sing hymns in honor of the Mother of God, some parishes will hold special Marian Devotions, others will have a May Crowning of a statue in honor of Mary or other devotional practices as well. In all of it, we honor the one through whom the Incarnation of Christ, our Lord, was accomplished.

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke we hear the announcement: "In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name Him, Jesus. He will be great, and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.'" (Luke 1:26-33)

We reflect upon these words of Holy Scripture each and every time we gather in honor of Mary, the Mother of God. These words are so very important since they are the inauguration of presence of our

Lord Jesus Christ with us, His people. So they also serve as a connection to all else that we encounter during the rest of our liturgical year, especially the seasons of Lent and Easter. The prayer that we say as a part of the Marian Devotions, the prayer which is also said daily at the Angelus, helps us to make the connection. "O Lord, we ask You, pour forth Your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

As we reflect on what we pray, we say that the message of an angel was given, not only to Mary, but rather through her it was given to all of us. So therefore we must examine this passage and seek to apply it to our own journey of faith. The passage begins with the angel coming to Mary with words of greeting and announces that the 'Lord is with her.' This greeting reminds us as well that we are invited into and to partake of the fellowship of Almighty God. We are invited to bear forth the presence of Christ into the world, just as Mary did. Certainly not in a physical sense as she did, but rather in a spiritual sense to bear forth the presence of Christ, in our worship of Almighty God, in our fellowship of one Christian to another, in our teaching of others to follow Jesus, in our work to build up the kingdom of God.

When Mary is perplexed concerning the angels greeting, the angel answers her with the words, "Do not

(Continued on Page 3.)

**Email Addresses
for the
P.N.C.C. Office**

The email addresses for the staff of the National Church Center and God's Field are:

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky
pbmikovsky@pncc.org

Secretary to Prime Bishop—Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

P.N.C.C. Treasurer—Joan Scheuneman
executive03@pnu.org

God's Field— Rola Boza Editor—Julie Orzell
secretarytopb@pncc.org

Questions or concerns? Call us at 570-346-9131 or 570-346-2125.

**God's Field — Rola Boza
Publication Information**

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Email articles and photos to secretarytopb@PNCC.org. If your submission was successfully delivered via email, you will receive an acknowledgement email stating that your submission was received. To ensure clarity of graphics, please send JPEG or TIFF formatted pictures with a resolution of at least 300 pixels per inch. **Please identify individuals in photographs or caption photographs.**

Typewritten articles and photographs may be submitted to:
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CONTROLLER:

Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

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 be afraid.’ These too are important words which are heard many times throughout the pages of Scripture. While we may not consider them of great importance, they surely are, since quite a lot of our actions and thoughts that turn us away from God come about in response to fear. We are afraid of what might happen if we follow God instead of those around us; we are afraid of what other people will think; we are afraid that things will be out of our control, and many other fears besides. Through the message of the angel, God tells us, that when we place everything in His hands, there is no reason to be afraid, since He is in control. This does not mean that everything will go exactly right. It does not mean that everything will be easy. But it does mean that God is trustworthy, and when we place our trust in Him, we are standing on solid ground.

The angel then goes on to explain at length that the Son of God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be conceived in her womb and will be born for all humanity. The angel confirms his announcement in several phrases, “Jesus: will be great; will be called Son of the Most High; will be given the throne of David; will reign over the house of Jacob; will have an everlasting kingdom.” In and through this we are reminded that we, as weak and sinful humans, need continual support and reminders from God concerning our forgiveness, and especially our high calling to join with Jesus in building the kingdom of God. Hearing the message only once, or only on infrequent occasions, is not enough. We need continual support. This also reminds us that our religious practices must be continuous as well. We must gather weekly to worship God and receive His Son in Holy Communion; we must pray daily to receive the strength and counsel of God in our lives.

Mary is then again perplexed how all of this will happen and the angel explains, “The Holy Spirit will

come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; He will be called Son of God.” (Luke 1:35) This reminds us that if we place ourselves in the presence of Almighty God, He will come to us and lead us in the right direction. He will bring to us the answers that we need when we strive to always place ourselves before Him in worship and in prayer.

Lastly we come to the high point of this encounter. Mary’s response to the angel, “Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’” (Luke 1:38) This is Mary’s “yes” to God. It is our ultimate example of cooperation of the divine and the human to accomplish God’s work in the world. In our reflection on this entire passage and especially during this month of May as we reflect on the role of Mary within our faith journey, this “yes” of Mary must be an example for us and point us to assert the same “yes” within our own lives. We are challenged to examine where we can give a further “yes” to God in every aspect of our lives. God desires that we worship Him in our life of personal prayer and weekly worship. Will we say “yes” to God? Especially during this Easter season, we hear the call of Jesus to follow Him in His risen life. Do we say “yes” to this call? We are called to seek to cast aside the sins in our lives and seek forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. Will we say “yes” to God’s forgiveness extended in this Sacrament? We are called to show love, compassion and mercy to each other in our daily journey of life. Will we say “yes” to following this way of Jesus in the world?

As we continue on in prayer and devotions in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary during this month of May, as we continue to pray the ‘Hail Mary’ throughout our life of prayer, let us contemplate Mary’s ‘yes’ to God. And let her be truly our mother and our example to say ‘yes’ to God as well.

Hail Mary,
 full of grace,
 the Lord is with thee.
 Blessed art thou among women
 and blessed is the fruit
 of thy womb, Jesus.
 Holy Mary, mother of God,
 pray for us sinners
 now and at the hour of our death.
 Amen.



Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky's Holy Mass of Thanksgiving in Celebration of 25 Years in the Holy Priesthood

**St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, Polish National Catholic Cathedral, Scranton, PA
April 24, 2022**

At 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 24, 2022, Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the Polish National Catholic Church, celebrated a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, Cathedral in Scranton, PA, to commemorate 25 years in the Holy Priesthood of the P.N.C.C. Over 150 clergy, Supreme Council members and laity from four U.S. dioceses were in attendance.

Bishop John Mack, Bishop of the Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop of the Central Diocese, Rt. Rev. Jarosław (Jerry) Rafalko, Bishop of the Western Diocese and Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, were also present at the altar during Mass. Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr., presented the Homily. Assisting during the Mass were Rev. Carmen Bolock and Rev. David Gaydos. Mary Ann Stankowski was lector and Kevin McConlogue served as acolyte during the Mass.



Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C.



Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Rt. Rev. John Mack, Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Rt. Rev. Jarosław (Jerry) Rafalko



Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich



**Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky Celebrates
Mass of Thanksgiving**

The Cathedral Chorale, accompanied by Ryan Caviston on organ, sang selections in English and Polish from the P.N.C.C. Hymnal/Spiewnik throughout the Mass, with the congregation joining in the singing. The St. Stanislaus Bell Choir, under the direction of Mary Ann Stankowski, performed “Shine, Jesus, Shine” during the Distribution of Holy Communion.

Following the Mass a reception and banquet to honor Prime Bishop Mikovsky was held in the Cathedral Youth Center. Kathryn Nemkovich of the Supreme Council served as banquet Master of Ceremonies. Bishop Bernard Nowicki gave the invocation and all bishops present made remarks. Ms. Nemkovich read a congratulatory letter from Prime Bishop Emeritus Robert M. Nemkovich who was unable to attend the festivities.

Prime Bishop Mikovsky provided words of thanks to everyone for attending this very special event. Flowers were presented to Prime Bishop Mikovsky by his godson, Jacob Stankowski. At the end of the evening Benediction was offered by Bishop John Mack.



Prime Bishop Mikovsky and Jacob Stankowski



Seated: Mrs. Barbara Nowicki, Rt. Rev. John Mack, Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Mrs. Carol Mikovsky
Standing: Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Rt. Rev. Jerry Rafalko, Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Mrs. Kathryn Nemkovich, Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich

The celebration concluded with everyone singing the Hymn of the P.N.C.C. followed by a round of “Sto lat” to wish Prime Bishop Mikovsky many more years of service in the Holy Priesthood.



Most Rev. Anthony and Carol Mikovsky



Supreme Council of the Polish National Catholic Church

Scranton, PA

The Supreme Council of the Polish National Catholic Church conducted its annual meeting at the St. Stanislaus, Bishop & Martyr, Cathedral Youth Center, Scranton, PA, on Monday, April 25 and Tuesday, April 26, 2022. Because of the Coronavirus [Covid-19] pandemic and travel and meeting restrictions, the Annual Meetings of the Supreme Council during 2020 and 2021 were conducted via video conferences. This was the first in-person meeting of the Supreme Council since 2019.

Minutes of the Supreme Council will be published in upcoming issues of God's Field.



Seated front row: Kathryn Nemkovich (Representative-at-large); Rt. Rev. Paul Sobiechowski, Bishop, Eastern Diocese; Rt. Rev. John Mack, Bishop, Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese; Most Rev. Anthony A. Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C.; Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki, Bishop, Central Diocese; Rt. Rev. Jarosław (Jerry) Rafalko, Bishop, Western Diocese; Marylin Folcik (Eastern Diocese Representative);

Standing: Bruce Kaniewski (Western Diocese Representative); Joan Scheuneman (Treasurer, P.N.C.C.); Cathy Bilinski (Western Diocese Representative); Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak (Western Diocese Clergy Representative); Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Jr. (Eastern Diocese Clergy Representative); Raymond Pieczarka (Eastern Diocese Representative); John Andrzejewski, III (Polish National Union Representative); Paul Gorgol (Central Diocese Representative); David Petrosky, Sr. (Representative-at-large); Martin Wachna, Jr. (Polish National Union Representative); Becki Pawlikowski (Central Diocese Representative); Very Rev. Gregory Mludzik (Central Diocese Clergy Representative); Diane Cheek (Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese Representative); Robert Giczkowski (Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese Representative); Rev. Dr. Scott J. Lill (Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocese Clergy Representative); Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid (Savonarola Theological Seminary Representative)

Men's Spiritual Retreat

The men of the United Y.M.S. of R. would like to formally invite you to the Y.M.S. of R. Bishop Bilinski Memorial Men's Spiritual Retreat, to be held from Wednesday, June 15th through Saturday, June 18th at the Bishop Hodur Retreat & Recreation Center in Waymart, PA. This retreat is aimed at men, and is open to all males - parishioners and non-parishioners - seeking some time to dedicate to the Lord. This year's retreat theme is: Devotion and Fellowship based on Acts 2:42 – “And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” In-Person attendance is \$125 for three nights or \$100 for two nights. The fee includes all meals, beverages, and snacks; retreat materials and printouts; and a retreat gift bag. Meet the speakers and get information as well as sign-up at:

[5th Annual National YMSofR Bishop Bilinski Memorial Spiritual Retreat \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/search?q=5th+Annual+National+YMSofR+Bishop+Bilinski+Memorial+Spiritual+Retreat&rlz=C3151C1131765434000000000000000000&oeq=1).

Future Direction May Message

May 2022 – Devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament

During May we honor the Theotokos (The Mother of God – The Blessed Virgin Mary). We do this in part through the Liturgical Worship of the Church. One paraliturgical service we celebrate is May Devotions, the Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

A video message by Rev. Jason Soltysiak can be viewed on the [P.N.C.C. Future Direction YouTube channel](#).



Scripture: John 6 (Bread of Life Discourse); Luke 1:36; John 1:14

Reflection and Action Item:

The Blessed Virgin Mary gave her consent to God through the Archangel Gabriel: “Behold I am the servant of the Lord, be it done unto me according to your word.” Then, “The word became flesh and dwelt among us.” Mary’s yes to God resulting in receiving Jesus into her heart, mind, body and soul and we receive Jesus in our hearts, minds, bodies and souls in receiving Holy Communion and adoring his presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.

From PNCC Prayer Book:

Make our dear Lord in the Blessed Sacrament your constant thought; remember that He is your friend; tell Him all your sorrows; go often in the week, if only for a few minutes, to relieve your mind in trouble, and you will find that the hardest trials will seem to pass away in a moment. Go to Him always, you will wonder at the fullness of the comfort and support which you will receive, and at the clearness of the answers that will come in time of doubt. Place your cares into the hands of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and they will become light, very light.

Jesus, my God, I adore You, here present in the Sacrament of Your love.

Divine Redeemer, Who in Your infinite goodness has been pleased to give Your precious Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist, I adore You with the most profound respect. I thank You for all the favors You have bestowed upon me, especially for the institution of this Most Holy Sacrament. As You are the source of every blessing, bestow Your benediction upon me, my relatives and friends. Bless my Church, bishops, priests, deacons and all those for whom I pray (*especially ...*). Let Your blessing flow abundantly and may it be felt in the souls of those who cannot come here to receive it. May the weak and tempted feel its power wherever they may be. Let all feel its influence, moving them to come to You. O Lord, grant me a strong love of You, a hatred of sin, a greater respect of grace, and great zeal for your honor and glory and for my sanctification and salvation. Amen.

My Lord and my God!

Blessed and praised be the most holy and divine Sacrament now and forever. Amen.

Action Item: Offer this reflection from our P.N.C.C. Prayer Book weekly during this month giving reverence and respect to the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament.



Litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary

May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Marian devotions honor our Mother, and the Mother of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Pray this Litany at home during this month.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
 God, the Father of heaven, Have mercy on us.
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.
 God the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.
 Holy Trinity, one God. Have mercy on us.
 Holy Mary, pray for us
 Holy Mother of God, pray for us
 Holy Virgin of virgins, pray for us
 Mother of Christ, pray for us
 Mother of divine grace, pray for us
 Mother most pure, pray for us
 Mother most chaste, pray for us
 Mother inviolate, pray for us
 Mother undefiled, pray for us
 Mother most amiable, pray for us
 Mother most admirable, pray for us
 Mother of our Creator, pray for us
 Mother of our Savior, pray for us
 Mother of good counsel, pray for us
 Virgin most prudent, pray for us
 Virgin most venerable, pray for us
 Virgin most renowned, pray for us
 Virgin most powerful, pray for us
 Virgin most merciful, pray for us
 Virgin most faithful, pray for us
 Mirror of justice, pray for us
 Seat of wisdom, pray for us
 Cause of our joy, pray for us
 Spiritual vessel, pray for us
 Vessel of honor, pray for us
 Singular vessel of devotion, pray for us
 Mystical rose, pray for us
 Tower of David, pray for us
 Tower of ivory, pray for us
 House of gold, pray for us
 Ark of the covenant, pray for us
 Gate of heaven, pray for us
 Morning star, pray for us

Health of the sick, pray for us
 Refuge of sinners, pray for us
 Comforter of the afflicted, pray for us
 Help of Christians, pray for us
 Queen of angels, pray for us
 Queen of patriarchs, pray for us
 Queen of prophets, pray for us
 Queen of apostles, pray for us
 Queen of martyrs, pray for us
 Queen of confessors, pray for us
 Queen of virgins, pray for us
 Queen of all saints, pray for us
 Queen conceived without sin, pray for us
 Queen of our nation, pray for us
 Queen of peace, pray for us
 Lamb of God, You take away sins of the world;
 Spare us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world;
 Graciously hear us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, Your take away the sins of the world;
 Have mercy on us.
 Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
 Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Grant, we beg you, O Lord God, that we your servants may enjoy lasting health of mind and body, and by the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, be delivered from present sorrow and enter into the joy of eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but, in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Bearing Hope

By Jason Fox

“Then he prayed, ‘O LORD, open his eyes, that he may see.’ And the LORD opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw that the mountainside was filled with fiery chariots and horses around Elisha.” (2 Kings 6:17 [NAB])

I think we have all faced a struggle in life before that we felt was hopeless. In the above Scripture, the servant of Elisha was gripped with fear when he saw that horses and chariots sent from the King of Aram had surrounded the city searching for Elisha because his prophecies continually thwarted their attacks against the King of Israel. Elisha should have been terrified, but he was not afraid, he knew that he had a much greater army on his side because of his relationship with the Lord.

I needed the Mass this Easter Sunday, more than ever. I received devastating news six days before about an estranged dearly beloved family member. In the years since we parted ways, they have fallen profoundly away from God to a degree I would have never considered fathomable. I was attending university at the time and had to maintain my composure for hours. When I finally made it out to the privacy of my car, all the strength I could muster was to send out prayer requests to my most trusted intercessors and break down weeping.

... But none of my classmates knew. No one knew I was breaking inside that day.

Eventually I made it through. I entrusted their soul to the Mother of God, consigned myself to devote my sufferings and my prayers on their behalf, and set my face upon trusting God for their redemption.

But what about those who don't have our hope?

This was the thought that came to me in the Mass after receiving the Eucharist. How many times do we pass by people we know, and they are breaking inside, and we have absolutely no idea? Where do they go when they break down alone, and they have no one to pray for them? What do they do if they don't have the Lord, or a loving Church family, or trusted friends they can confide in for prayer? This is what came to me in the Mass. We are bearers of hope. We are a family. The Church is a living body, with access to real power from God, and real hope for salvation.

Elisha prayed so that his servant would see the vast resources they had available for their protection. He prayed so his servant would have hope.

I have hope because I belong to a living God, I am a member of the Polish National Catholic Church, I have trusted brothers and sisters in Christ to pray for me, and my God is more than capable of standing by me to strengthen me through any tragedy that comes before me in life.

Share your hope. Bear your hope to another. Ask them how you can pray for them or their family.

Invite them to Church.

Start praying for them now, entrusting them to the Holy Mother. Pray she will help lead them to her Son Jesus Christ. Do anything and everything you can to let them know there is hope available, and that hope is living in you.

I leave you with the comforting words of Saint Peter, which have resounded strongly within my heart.

“... Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” (1 Peter 3:15 [NAB])



Loving God,

we thank you for the love of the mothers you have given us, whose love is so precious that it can never be measured, whose patience seems to have no end.

We pray for those mothers who fear they will run out of love or time, or patience. We ask you to bless them with your own special love.

Amen.

Catholic.org

Honor Your Father



We pray for all fathers, both lay and clergy, past and present, to express our gratitude, remembrance and love for all they have done for our families and for our Church.

For continued support of our Clergy Pension Fund and to acknowledge ALL FATHERS, we will publish in the June issue of God's Field — Rola Boza your name and the name of the father you wish to acknowledge or remember.

For each acknowledgement or remembrance, we are requesting a minimum donation of \$25.00, payable to the Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C.

We feel that this will have a two-fold affect, by acknowledging or remembering OUR FATHERS, LAY OR CLERGY, for all they have done for us and also to bolster our Clergy Pension Fund in order to show our continued support for our Clergy/our Church Fathers who make so many sacrifices each day in service to our Church.

All donations received go toward the Clergy Pension Fund of the Polish National Catholic Church.

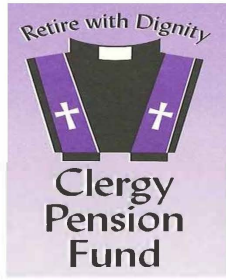
Please complete the form on the opposite page and submit it prior to June 1, 2022, along with your minimum donation of \$25.00 per name, to the

Clergy Pension Fund
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Please make checks payable to the "Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C."

Thank you for your support.

P.N.C.C. Clergy Pension Fund Committee



Honor Your Father on Father's Day

(Limit of one name per minimum \$25.00 donation)

I wish to remember/honor (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other

I wish to remember/honor (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other

I wish to remember/honor (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other

I wish to remember/honor (please circle) my Pastor, Father, Grandfather, or Other

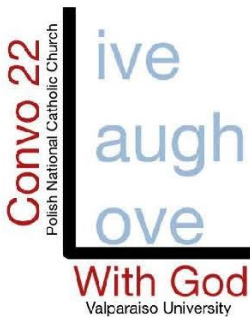
Remembered by: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Please make checks payable to the "Clergy Pension Fund P.N.C.C." and submit the completed form with your minimum donation of \$25 per name, to the

Clergy Pension Fund Committee
1006 Pittston Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505
570-346-9131



Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. - Youth Chaplain
 2022 National Youth Convocation
 Polish National Catholic Church
 6629 W. 133rd Avenue - Cedar Lake, IN 46303-7503
 (219) 374-7621 wdpncccconvo2022@gmail.com

May 12, 2022

Dear Youth, Youth Advisors and Clergy of our Holy Church,

The Western Diocese Youth Commission and the Western Diocese United Youth Association are excited to announce that the 2022 National Youth Convocation **“Live, Laugh and Love with God”** will take place on July 18-22 at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana.

An inspirational and fun time is planned for you, your friends and all those from your Parish. Remember to tell your family and friends what a great time you had two years ago and invite them to come with you in July!

On the following pages you will find registration information, a tentative schedule and a letter regarding the 2022 service project. If you need additional assistance with directions to the university, please use your computer and go to mapquest.com or a different map site in order to get specific directions from your house or parish.

As part of the registration information, a special section regarding the Covid-19 Vaccine Policy of Valparaiso University. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence and comply with all laws of the State of Illinois and will be destroyed at the conclusion of Convo 2022. For your added information Valparaiso University is in full compliance with the Federal, State and Local regulations regarding Covid-19.

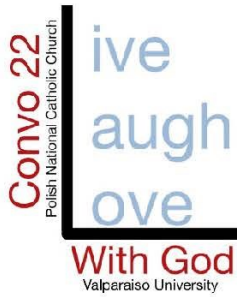
You are encouraged to fill out your registration forms as soon as possible to take full advantage of the low registration price of \$290.00. The 2022 Convo Committee realizes the financial strain a Convo can place upon a family or parish, so we have done our very best to keep the price as low as possible.

You are kindly asked to arrive at Valparaiso University no earlier than 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 18. Please let me or Mrs. Christine Wachna (wdpncccconvo2022@gmail.com) know if you intend on arriving later than 3:00 p.m.

Our Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend Jarosław Rafalko., the members of the Western Diocesan Youth Commission, the Western Diocese United Youth Association, as well as myself are looking forward to a great time and can't wait to meet all our veterans as well as the newcomers to our National Youth Convocation!

In His Service,

Very Reverend John P. Kowalczyk, Jr.
 Youth Chaplain of the 2022 National Youth Convocation



July 18 – 22, 2022
Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN
Open to all Youth (Ages 12 – 20) & Adults
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Received by June 30, 2022
\$290 per person – One completed form per person

\$50.00 late fee if received June 30 - July 10, 2022
 (Convo shirt will not be guaranteed after June 30)
All registrations must be received no later July 10, 2022.

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| Checks made payable to: Western Diocese PNCC | Mail completed & signed forms with payment to: St. Michael the Archangel Parish Attn: Convo 2022 6629 W. 133 rd Avenue Cedar Lake, IN 46303-7503 |
| Questions?: call 219-374-7621 or via Email: wdpnccconvo2022@gmail.com | |

Participant Information:

Participant Name _____

Sex: M or F Birth Date ____/____/____ Age _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Email address _____

Parish Name _____

Parish City/State _____ Diocese: _____

Parent/Guardian Name *(if applicable)* _____

Chaperone Name _____ Parish _____

Room Buddy _____ Parish _____

Emergency Contact Information: *(not attending Convo 2022)*

Emergency Name _____

Relation to Participant _____ Home/Cell (____) _____

General Information *(please ✓)*

T-Shirt Size: *(Youth)* Small Medium Large X-Large
(Adult) Small Medium Large X-Large XX-Large XXX-Large

Would you be willing to serve as... acolyte choir member lector musician* usher

*If you checked "musician", which instrument do you play? _____

Health Information *(If you need additional space, please include on separate piece of paper.)*

Participant's allergies, if any, including medication and foods with reactions:

Participant's special dietary needs _____

Participant's chronic medical problems *(e.g. diabetes, epilepsy)* _____Participant's current medication *(RX & OTC)* _____

Participant's other physical restrictions *(if any)* _____**Valparaiso University Covid Vaccination Requirement**

All those visiting campus for a camp or conference are required to be vaccinated.

It is the responsibility of the organizing sponsor of the conference to communicate with attendees, collect, and keep all health-related vaccination proof for its conference participants.

Those individuals who are vaccinated are always welcome to practice a mask optional usage based on their personal health preferences, and otherwise must adhere to any indoor mask position or policy that is taken by the conference sponsoring organization. Indoor masking in large groups is still strongly encouraged.

If you are of age to receive the Covid-19 Vaccine (ages 12 & above), please answer the following questions.

1. Currently, are you fully vaccinated for Covid-19? Yes No

If you answered "No" to the previous question, then...

2. By the time you attend Convo 2022, will you have received the full vaccine for Covid Yes No

3. If you have a medical exemption in regard to the Covid-19 Vaccine, you must call the National Youth Chaplain, Fr. Sr. John Kowalczyk no later than June 20, 2022. Fr. Sr. Kowalczyk Office: 219-374-7621

NOTE: A copy of your vaccination card must be submitted upon registration and will be shredded upon the conclusion of Convo 2022.

POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH NATIONAL YOUTH CONVO 2022 WAIVER:

I, _____, am either an emancipated adult or the parent or guardian of a minor child who will be participating in the CONVO '22 OF THE POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH ("CONVO '22"). I am fully aware that my own/my child's participation in The Event is totally voluntary. In consideration of CONVO '22's agreement to permit me/my child to participate in The Event, the receipt and sufficiency in which consideration is hereby acknowledged, I agree as follows:

I, individually, and on behalf of my minor child, if applicable, and our respective heirs, successors, assigns and personal representatives, hereby:

1. Release, acquit and forever discharge CONVO '22 and their employees, agents, servants, officers, trustees and representatives, in their official and individual capacities, from any and all liability whatsoever for any and all damages, losses or injuries to persons or property or both which arise out of, during or in connection with my/my child's participation in The Event which may be sustained or suffered by me/my child or any person in connection with my/my child's association with, or participation in, activities at, sponsored by, or arising out of my/his/her travel to or from The Event;
2. Agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless CONVO '22 and their employees, agents, servants, officers, trustees and representatives, in their official and individual capacities, from any and all liability, loss or damage they incur or sustain as a result of any claims, demands, actions, causes of action judgments, costs or expenses, including attorneys fees, which result from arise out of relate to my/my child's participation in The Event including my/his/her travel to or from The Event.

I hereby acknowledge and accept that:

1. There are certain risks arising from various activities, including but not limited to bodily injury, that could result from my/my child's participation in The Event. I have knowingly and voluntarily decided to assume the risks of these inherent dangers in consideration of CONVO '22's permission to allow me/my minor child to participate in The Event;
2. My and, if applicable, my child's personal property is at my risk entirely;
3. CONVO '22 reserves the right to decline to accept or retain me/my child in The Event at any time should my/his/her actions or general behavior impede the operation of The Event or the rights or welfare of any person. I understand that I/my child may be required to leave The Event in the sole discretion of CONVO '22's agents and representatives. In such an event, no refund will be made for any unused portion of The Event. I understand that CONVO '22, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to cancel The Event or any aspect thereof prior to commencement.

I represent and warrant that I am/my child is covered throughout The Event by a policy of comprehensive health and accident insurance which provides coverage for injuries which I/he/she may sustain as part of my/his/her participation in The Event. I agree to complete the HEALTH INFORMATION above to the best of my ability and, by its completion, I hereby release and discharge CONVO '22 of all responsibility and liability for any injuries, illnesses, medical bills, charges or similar expense/he/she may incur while participating in The Event. By completing the form, I hereby authorize CONVO '22 to obtain any necessary medical treatment to myself/my child, consent to any necessary examination, treatment, or care under the supervision and/or advice of any properly licensed medical professional and explicitly authorize CONVO '22 to release medical information about me/my child to any person or entity to whom CONVO '22 refers me/my child for medical treatment.

I agree that this Agreement is to be construed pursuant to the laws of the State of Illinois and is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by law, and if any portion hereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance hereof shall continue in full legal force and effect. In addition, I agree that any legal action arising out of or in relation to this Agreement must be brought in a Cook County, Illinois court.

I hereby grant to CONVO '22 my consent without reservation to use, assign, convey, reproduce, copyright, publish or sell my/my child's name, voice, image, and/or likeness that arises from his/her participation in The Event, whether still or motion pictures, audio or video tape, for promotional, instructional, business or any other lawful purposes, at CONVO '22's sole discretion.

In signing this Agreement, I hereby acknowledge and represent that I have read this entire document, that I understand its terms and provisions, that I understand it affects my legal rights as well as, if applicable, those of my child, that it is a binding Agreement, and that I have signed it knowingly and voluntarily.

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____

National Youth Convocation 2022 July 18-22, 2022

Rules and Regulations

For all Youth Participants, Guests, Clergy and Chaperones

This list of Rules and Regulations is for everyone in attendance and is intended to allow you to have an enjoyable and safe experience at Convo '22 and Valparaiso University.

We encourage you to...

- have an awesome time at Convo 2022!
- follow all rules and regulations of Convo 2022 and Valparaiso University, including the latest safety rules regarding vaccination, social distancing, masks, etc. as required by the CDC and the Indiana Department of Health Guidelines.
- be aware that you are responsible for your conduct at all times.
- attend all sessions, activities, Mass and Prayer Services.
- mute or turn off all electronic devices during Holy Mass, Prayer Services, sessions or activities, unless otherwise directed.
- dress appropriately at all times.
- be sure to limit all social activity to public areas only.
- use recreation equipment and facilities in a proper and safe manner.
- put away all recreation equipment that was used.
- respect your fellow neighbors at night and be considerate of their needs, especially those younger participants.
- respect for all plant life and wildlife.
- stay on the property of Valparaiso University at all times.

We discourage the following...

- socializing in dorm rooms with members of the opposite sex.
- inappropriate dress (no lewd or profane t-shirts, clothing that is too small, too tight, etc.).
Everyone is to wear modest non-revealing clothes; this includes bathing suits.
- use of foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- loud noises after 10:30 p.m.
- use of alcohol, illegal drugs, fireworks or firearms are strictly prohibited by all participants.
- use of tobacco, must be of legal age and in designated areas only.
- not to rearrange beds or other furnishings without permission from Valparaiso University.
- leaving Valparaiso University under any circumstances, unless granted permission by the National Youth Chaplain, Father Senior John Kowalczyk.

Violation of these rules and regulations will be handled by the Convo 2022 Tribunal.

I have read and understand these rules:

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent signature is required for all participants 17 years of age or younger

Chaperone/Clergy/Guest Signature _____ Date _____

2022 National Youth Convocation of the Polish National Catholic Church

DRAFT SCHEDULE

Monday – July 18

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 12:00 – 2:30 p.m. | Registration |
| 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. | Opening Session |
| 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. | Ice Breakers (WDUYA) |
| 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 7:30 – 10:30 p.m. | Dance with DJ |
| 10:45 p.m. | Evening Prayer |
| 11:30 p.m. | Lights Out |

Tuesday – July 19

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast |
| 9:15 – 9:30 a.m. | General Announcements and Review |
| 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. | Session 1 – Live Fr. Sr. Jaroslaw Nowak |
| 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. | TBD |
| 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:15 – 2:00 p.m. | Session 2 – Laugh Cleric Douglas Scott |
| 2:15 – 3:00 p.m. | Session 3 – Love |
| 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. | Small Groups |
| 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Dinner |
| 6:15 – 7:00 p.m. | Session 4 – Live |
| 7:15 – 8:00 p.m. | Service Project |
| 8:15 – 9:15 p.m. | Holy Mass Celebrant – Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky Homilist – |
| 9:30 – 10:45 p.m. | Game Night |
| 10:45 p.m. | Evening Prayer |
| 11:30 p.m. | Lights Out |

Wednesday – July 20

| | | |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| 7:00 – 7:45 a.m. | Breakfast | |
| 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. | Group Picture | |
| 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. | Holy Mass | |
| | Celebrant – Right Reverend Jaroslaw Rafalko | Homilist – |
| 10:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Deep River Water Park | |
| 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Dinner | |
| 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. | Question and Answer Session | |
| 7:15 – 7:45 p.m. | NUC Presentation and NUYA Elections | |
| 8:00 – 10:15 p.m. | Doc Dixon | |
| 10:30 p.m. | Evening Prayer | |
| 11:30 p.m. | Lights Out | |

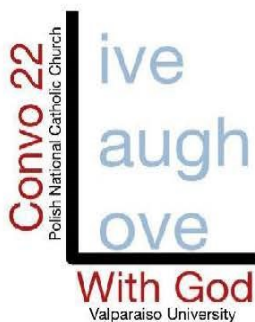
Thursday – July 21

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast | |
| 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. | Extra Time | |
| 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. | Small Groups | |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Holy Mass (Mass for the Youth) | |
| | Celebrant – Very Reverend John Kowalczyk | |
| | Con-celebrants – Diocesan Youth Chaplains | |
| | Homilist – Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky | |
| 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch | |
| 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. | Session 5 – Laugh | |
| 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Break Out Sessions | |
| 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. | Session 6 – Love | |
| | Mrs. Christine Wachna, PNU Director – District 6 | |
| 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Dinner | |
| 6:00 – 6:45 p.m. | Free Time | |
| 7:00 – 10:15 p.m. | Dance | |
| 10:30 p.m. | Evening Prayer | |
| 11:30 p.m. | Lights Out | |

Friday – July 22

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast | |
| 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Session 7 – | |
| | Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky | |
| 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. | Presentations and Closing Remarks | |
| 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Holy Mass | |
| | Celebrant – | Homilist – |
| 12:15 p.m. | Lunch | |

revised 05/12/22



Very Rev. John P. Kowalczyk, Jr. - Youth Chaplain
 2022 National Youth Convocation
 Polish National Catholic Church
 6629 W. 133rd Avenue - Cedar Lake, IN 46303-7503
 (219) 374-7621 wdpncccconvo2022@gmail.com

May 12, 2022

Dear Clergy and Faithful of the Polish National Catholic Church,

As an outreach program and service project of the 2022 National Youth Convocation, we are seeking your financial support for the purchase of socks and personal hygiene products for several homeless shelters located in Northwest Indiana. The National Youth Convocation will be held in Valparaiso, Indiana. The most requested item of clothing at shelters are socks followed by personal hygiene products. It is the goal of the Convo 2022 Committee to help meet these vital needs to the people in NW Indiana, the location of the Convo. 100% of your donation will go toward this outreach and service project.

Here are some ideas from the 2022 Convo Committee on how to cover the cost of our service project. Each Parish can sponsor at least one event and send the proceeds to the Convo 2022 Committee. This can be achieved through fund raising activities - such as a dinner or car wash - to simply seeking donations at your coffee and cake fellowships after Mass. Perhaps one or more "special collections" could be taken after Mass and as always, the respective individuals, societies and parishes are able to donate.

Please total your collections and donations and write a check payable to: Western Diocese PNCC. In the memo please write: Convo 22 Service Project.

You are kindly asked to send your donation no later than June 30, 2022 to:
 Convo 22 Service Project
 6629 W. 133rd Avenue - Cedar Lake, IN 46303-7503

If you have any questions about this outreach program and service project, do not hesitate to contact me at the above address, phone or e-mail.

May God bless us for all we do to help those in need not only in our local communities but throughout the world.

In Christ's Service,

Very Reverend John P. Kowalczyk, Jr.
 Youth Chaplain of the 2022 National Youth Convocation

Intercommunion Between the Episcopal Church and the Polish National Catholic Church

Some years ago the Church received a question by a student at the Episcopal Seminary located in New York City about the minutes of the Intercommunion meetings between the Episcopal Church and the Polish National Catholic Church. He said that he was unable to find them in Episcopal Church Archives and asked whether our Archives had a copy. Unfortunately, none could be found at the Polish National Catholic Church Archives at that time.

Consequently, I was very happy to see the publication of this book by Project Canterbury. It was compiled by Richard J. Marmara, Jr., an Episcopalian Priest of the Diocese of New York; Rev. Warren C. Platt, wrote an introduction. This book has a wealth of information about fourteen (14) Intercommunion Commission meetings. The fourteen (14) meetings were: (1) June 27, 1947; (2) January 14, 1948; (3) October 27, 1948; (4) April 20, 1950; (5) November 14-15, 1951; (6) November 20, 1952; (7) June 7, 1966; (8) November 20, 1956; (9) November 19, 1957; (10) November 9-10, 1958; (11) April 24-25, 1967; (12) January 7, 1976; (13) April 8-9, 1976; (14) June 1-2, 1976. The meetings alternated between Episcopal Church locations and Polish National Catholic Church locations. Meeting number 1 was held in Albany, New York; numbers 2, 7 and 9 were held in Buffalo, New York; number 3 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; number 4 in Chicago, Illinois; number 5 in Greenwich, Connecticut; numbers 6, 8 and 12 in Scranton, Pennsylvania; number 10 in Toronto, Canada; numbers 11 and 13 in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; and number 14 in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania.

The book starts with a twenty-three page survey of the development of the intercommunion discussions between the Episcopal Church and the Polish National Catholic Church written by the Rev. Dr. Warren C. Platt. It was originally published in *Internationale Kirchliche Zeitschrift* number 82 in 1992.

The three points in the Bonn Agreement of July 2, 1931 concerning intercommunion between the Anglican Church and the Old Catholic Churches

"1. Each communion recognizes the catholicity and independence of the other and maintain its own, 2. Each communion agrees to admit members of the other communion to participate in the sacraments. 3. Intercommunion does not require from either communion the acceptance of all doctrinal opinion, sacramental devotion or liturgical practice characteristic of the other, but implies that each believes the other to hold all the essentials of the Christian Faith."

Bishop Valentine Gawrychowski and Bishop Jan Jasinski attended the Old Catholic Synod which approved Intercommunion with the Anglicans. The seventh General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church voted unanimously in favor of Intercommunion with the Church of England and the Anglican Church.

Committees were established by both churches; their first joint meeting was held in Albany, New York on June 27, 1947. It was agreed that the reports of the meetings would be in both Polish and English. The statement of the Polish National Catholic Church Intercommunion Commission was discussed and accepted by the meeting attendees. It said

"In this closer relationship of the Polish National Catholic Church to the Episcopal Church and vice versa, we feel that it is necessary to proceed gradually and slowly, and that the clergy of both churches should strive for a full understanding of the principles and rules of intercommunion, and through this understanding bring both churches a positive benefit and a firm faith in the Christian Church."

At the second meeting held in Buffalo, New York on January 14, 1948, a practical issue was discussed, that of the differences in the reception of Holy Communion and confession prior to. At the third meeting held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 27, 1948, reception of the Eucharist by members of one body while communicating at a church of the other body were agreed to.

The fifth meeting, held in Greenwich, Connecticut on November 14-15, 1961 concerned the celebration of Mass. *"This meeting noted that inter-celebration really meant the celebration by a priest of one church at the altar of the other church and using the liturgy of the other church."* Regulations were then agreed to define the practice. The eighth meeting held in Scranton, Pennsylvania on November 20, 1956 expanded the regulations to include all sacramental ministrations. The regulations were modified to permit a Bishop of one denomination to administer any sacrament according to the rite and liturgy of either church. Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski ordained a priest and five deacons for the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York on June 29, 1958 using the ordinal of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church. On September 6, 1955, the General Synod of the Episcopal Church of Canada resolved unanimously:

"That this General Synod agrees to the establishment of intercommunion between the Anglican Church of

Canada and the Polish National Catholic Church of America, and that this Synod appoint a Committee on Intercommunion to confer with a similar committee of the Polish National Catholic Church on questions arising from this new relationship as soon as it is formally acknowledged by the Polish National Catholic Church of America.”

The Supreme Council responded favorably to this initiative of the Episcopal Church of Canada on December 14, 1955. This was ratified by the tenth General Synod held in Chicago, Illinois in July 1958. Proclamations were made by the primates of each church at a service held in the Anglican Cathedral of St. James, Toronto, Canada on November, 9, 1958.

The Anglican Church of Canada began to send representatives to the joint meetings. The tenth meeting of the intercommunion committees as held on November 9-10, 1958 in Toronto, Canada. The topic discussed the meaning of intercommunion and full communion.

The 11th meeting was held at Kirby House in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on April 23-25, 1967. The theme of this meeting was *“Ecumenism and the development of the Bond Between Our Two Churches”*.

Bishop Scaife spoke about the status of the discussions between the Episcopal Church and the Orthodox Church. Father Nieminski talked about the Polish National Catholic Church and its Missionary activities in Poland.

Prime Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski and Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church John F. Allin met in Scranton, Pennsylvania on January 7, 1976 to discuss the possible ordination of women by the Episcopal Church. Also discussed at the meeting was the reception of Holy Communion by members of one church in the other.

After the vote in the Episcopal Churches General Convention to ordain women to the priesthood and episcopate in 1976, Prime Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski suspended sacramental intercommunion. The International Catholic Bishops Conference (OCBC) on September 17, 1976 issued a declaration rejecting the ordination of Women to the major orders of the Church. The OCBC also said,

“The churches which has preserved continuity with the ancient undivided Church and its sacramental ministerial order, should jointly discuss this question as sacramental ordination of Women, being fully aware of eventual consequences resulting from unilateral decisions.”

The 12th meeting was held in Scranton, Pennsylvania

on January 7, 1976. The principal discussion was on the ordination of women by the Episcopal Church. Part of this discussion was the topic of the Polish National Catholic Church as a haven for Episcopalians who are unhappy with changes in their church. Prime Bishop Thaddeus Zielinski explained the reception of a parish in South Carolina and the conditional ordination of Rev. Robin Conners, its pastor. He appointed a committee of five bishops and priests to continue to discuss inter-church relations.

The 13th meeting was held at Kirby House in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania on April 8-9, 1976. The meeting began with a discussion about the Philippine Independent Catholic Church; they also have concerns about the ordination of women. Bishop Anthony Rysz celebrated Mass using the rite of the Polish National Catholic Church. A statement was prepared related to point #3 of the Bonn Agreement.

“Since each communion does not require acceptance of all doctrinal opinion or liturgical practices of the other Communion, should a church of the Anglican Communion by its processes of legislation authorize the ordination of women to the diaconate, priesthood, or episcopate and thereby hold a doctrinal opinion different from that of the Polish National Catholic Church. It is the point of the Bonn Agreement which has been of concern in these situations.

The 14th meeting was held in Mountain Top, Pennsylvania on June 1-2, 1976. There were four sessions at this meeting. The primary topic of the first was the ordination of women by the Episcopal Church. Prime Bishop Zielinski was concerned about how this would be viewed by the Old Catholic Church; presumably this will be clarified at the September International Bishops Conference to be held in Vienna, Austria.

In Session 2, Bishop Reed, Episcopal Church, proposed a paper titled Proposed Regulations For Intercommunion. It had the following sections: Introduction; 1. Sacramental Administrations; 2. Function of Clergy in each other’s Church; 3. Transfer of Membership. A. Lay, b. Clergy; 4. Discipline; 5. Marriages between members of the two Churches; 6. Relations between Clergy and Parishes. Bishop Say was to prepare the Introduction and the others were to be prepared by small groups after discussing sections 1, 2, 3 and 6.

Session 3 was comprised of discussing the statements prepared by the small groups for sections 1, 2, and 3a. In Session 4, the discussions continued about the statements prepared on sections 3a, 3b and 6. It was

(Continued on Page 22.)

(Intercommunion Between the Episcopal Church and the Polish National Catholic Church - Continued from Page 21.)

announced that the official church newspapers were being sent to all members and alternates of the Intercommunion Commissions, the Episcopalian to Polish National Catholic Church members and God's Field to Episcopalian members. A Paper identified as the *"Intercommunion between the Episcopal Church and the Polish National Catholic Church being the recommended guidelines for relations between the two Churches prepared by the joint Intercommunion Commission named by the Prime Bishop and the Presiding Bishop Drafted June 1-2, 1976 at Kirby Episcopal House, Mountain Top, Pennsylvania."* It included five of the six topics listed under the Proposed Regulations For Intercommunion; Discipline (#4) was given as pending.

The decision of the Episcopal Church to ordain women led to the termination of the work of the Polish National Catholic Church - Episcopal Church Intercommunion Commission on October 29, 1976. The Old Catholic Bishop's Conference (OCBC) at its meeting on May 7-9, 1978 said that *"Bishops of the Union of Utrecht will in the future not take part in consecrations in those churches or dioceses of the Anglican Communion, which accept the ordination of women."* The 15th General Synod of the Polish National Catholic Church voted to terminate sacramental intercommunion with the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada.

A fifteenth meeting was agreed to be held in Toronto, Canada; however, it did not happen. The fourteenth was the last meeting.

This book includes much information about this joint venture. The names of the attendees, chairmen and secretaries for each meeting are given. The locations of each meeting are noted. The agreed to actions are given.

Reading these minutes leads to numerous questions. The minutes were to be kept in both English and Polish; however the Polish editions are yet to be found. It would be most interesting to compare the two versions. It also would be of interest to find out why the 15th scheduled meeting never occurred. How were the meetings reported by the media? Did any secretary keep notes from which the official minutes were prepared? Why was Discipline left unaddressed in the recommended guidelines? Did any participants in the discussions to formulate the six topics keep notes?

If you are at all interested in intercommunion activities, you should buy this book and read it at least twice.

Joseph Francis Seliga,
Chair, P.N.C.C. Commission on History and Archives
seliga1@optonline.net



Annual Easter Greeting

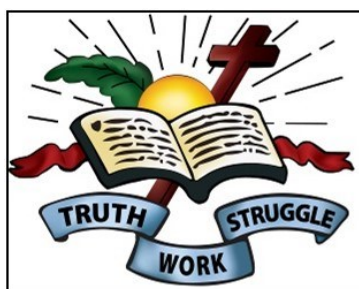
Buffalo-Pittsburgh Diocesan Clergy Circle
Rt. Rev. John E. Mack, Bishop Ordinary
Christ is risen! Alleluia!



Nomination of Candidates for Bishop

At this upcoming XXVI General Synod an election of Candidates for Bishop will be held. Nominations are now being accepted by the Office of the Prime Bishop, 1006 Pittston Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505. A Nomination Commission will be chosen in the future to evaluate the nominees in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the P.N.C.C. and the guideline accepted by the Supreme Council.

The Deadline for Nominations to be received in the Office of the Prime Bishop is May 31, 2022.



Central Diocese

**Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Activities
Dupont, PA**

Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA collected and donated \$7,853.00 to help the parishes of our sister Church, the Polish Catholic Church in Poland which has been providing support and caring for the Ukrainian refugees who have come across the border into Poland. God bless all for the generous donations.



David Petroski, Jr., Very Rev. Zbigniew Dawid, and David Petroski, Sr.

The ANS of Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish, Dupont, PA held an Installation Dinner on Tuesday, March 29, 2022. Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, Pastor, administered the oath to the following officers: Carol Bondurich- President, Lois McHugh- Vice - President; Stephanie Shumlas-Treasurer; Wanda Stash - Financial Secretary; Mary Jo Searfoss- Recording Secretary. New members accepted to the society include: Wanda Stash, Lois Morreale, Adele Sabach and Mary Azaravich. The ANS Society is very grateful to Dante LaFratte who cooked and provided the delicious dinner, enjoyed by all present.



Seated: Eleanor Bruno, Donna Micka, Stephanie Shumlas, Carol Bondurich, Lois McHugh, Mary Jo Searfoss, Adele Sabach. Standing: Rose Kazinetz, Ruthie O'Dell, Joyce Jopling, Wanda Stash, Fr. Sr. Zbigniew Dawid, Susan Baldan, Lois Morreale, Christine Wasko, Debbie Keener;

April 7 - Community Outreach Project at Holy Mother of Sorrows church in Dupont. The ANS members and friends gathered for the first time to learn how to make blankets (mats) for the homeless in the surrounding area. The blankets are made of plastic grocery shopping bags. It takes about 400 - 500 plastic bags to make one blanket.

Special thanks to Corky Krupp, instructor, who taught all the ladies how to make the blankets (mats).

The project will continue in the coming weeks and months at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish Hall in Dupont..



Rose Kazinetz, Ruthie O'Dell, Charlene Barge, Lois McHugh, Dorothy Kishel, Corky Kruppa, Pat Welter, Maria Bianco, Adele Sabach, Joyce Jopling

April 10 - Palm Sunday was celebrated at Holy Mother of Sorrows church with the blessing of palms and a procession. After the procession with palms around the church, the children laid robes along the main aisle, symbolizing the triumphant entry of Jesus to Jerusalem. Following the Palm Sunday Mass, everyone enjoyed a delicious breakfast with the bunny sponsored by the parish.



The Easter Bunny visited the parish children.

Eastern Diocese

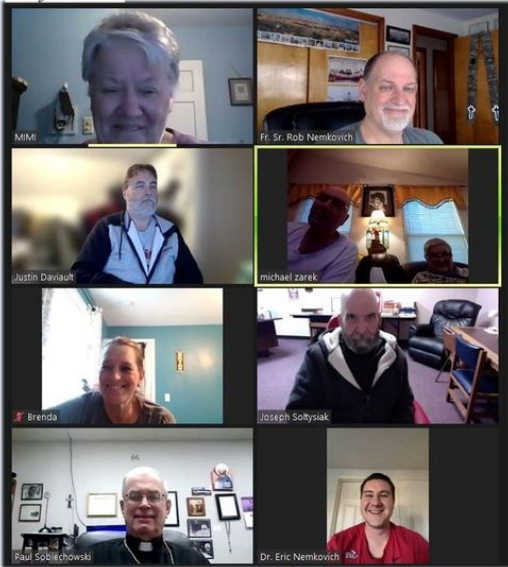
Upcoming Eastern Diocese Retreats

The Eastern Diocese Youth Commission met via Zoom on the evening of April 5th. During the meeting discussions were focused on planning the 49th Annual Eastern Diocese Youth Retreat, scheduled for August 22-24, 2022.

Don't forget to save the dates for the Youth Retreat and also for the Eastern Diocese Altar Server Retreat on June 23, 2022. Both events take place at Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River, MA.



Eastern Diocese PNCC Youth Commission Meeting 4/5/22



DISCIPLESHIP

2022 PNCC

EASTERN DIOCESE YOUTH RETREAT



BLESSED TRINITY PARISH - FALL RIVER, MA

Come and Worship. Learn and have great beach fun!

@ Blessed Trinity in Fall River

August 22-24, 2022



Registration and Health Forms are available from your pastor or email: Robnem21@aol.com

The cost is only \$75 per person.

Follow us on Facebook: Eastern Diocese Youth

Come and end your summer with friends in Christ!

2022 EASTERN DIOCESE ALTAR SERVER RETREAT

THURSDAY - JUNE 23, 2022

BLESSED TRINITY PARISH - FALL RIVER, MA

"DISCIPLESHIP: 2022"

BEGINS AT 9:30 A.M. WITH HOLY MASS AND ENDS AT THE BEACH

SESSIONS ON DISCIPLESHIP AND SERVING DURING THE LITURGIES OF THE CHURCH



Time in prayer, learning, fellowship and fun with your fellow

Altar Servers - Plus a trip swimming at a local beach

Open to Altar Servers of our Eastern Diocese - registration is just \$15



To register or for additional information contact:
Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich
Robnem21@aol.com

Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish Donations to the Ukraine Manchester, NH

A total of \$17,335.00 was collected by Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish, Manchester, NH, to help support our sister parishes in Poland who are on the front lines in supporting Ukrainian refugees. "SLAVA UKRAINI!"



The Manchester Rotary's board of directors voted to send \$1,000 to the District Rotary Foundation and give \$1,000 to Holy Trinity Cathedral Parish to support their international efforts to provide support in Poland to community churches completing outreach efforts to Ukrainian Refugees — for a total commitment of \$2,000.00

Pictured here is Chris Blais, Manchester Rotary Club Treasurer presenting a check to Bishop Paul Sobiechowski (and fellow Rotarian) from Holy Trinity Parish.



Holy Name of Jesus Parish Donates Supplies for the Ukraine

So. Deerfield, MA

Holy Name of Jesus Parish in S. Deerfield, MA, collected supplies to help the people of Ukraine. On April 18th, medical supplies, food and clothing collected by parishioners and friends were dropped off at Sts. Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church in Ludlow, MA, with pastor, Rev. Andrij Krip.

Let us all continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. Holy Name of Jesus Parish continues to accept donations of medical supplies and food as well as monetary donations to help Sts. Peter and Paul Parish offset shipping costs.



**Rev. Robert Koerber, pastor, Holy Name of Jesus Parish;
Rev.. Andrij Krip, pastor, Sts. Peter & Paul Parish;
Eric Dibrindisi , parishioner, Holy Name of Jesus Parish**



Items Collected at Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Holy Cross Parish Collects Donations to Aid Ukraine

Central Falls, RI

HOLY CROSS PARISH March 27th At the March 27th Holy Cross Parish Ladies Society meeting they donated \$1,000 to help our sister parishes in Poland assist Ukrainian refugees. PNU District 3 also donated \$500 to the same beautiful effort to help and show mercy and love to the Ukrainian people.

Let us live our lives giving unconditional love as our Father in heaven does for us!

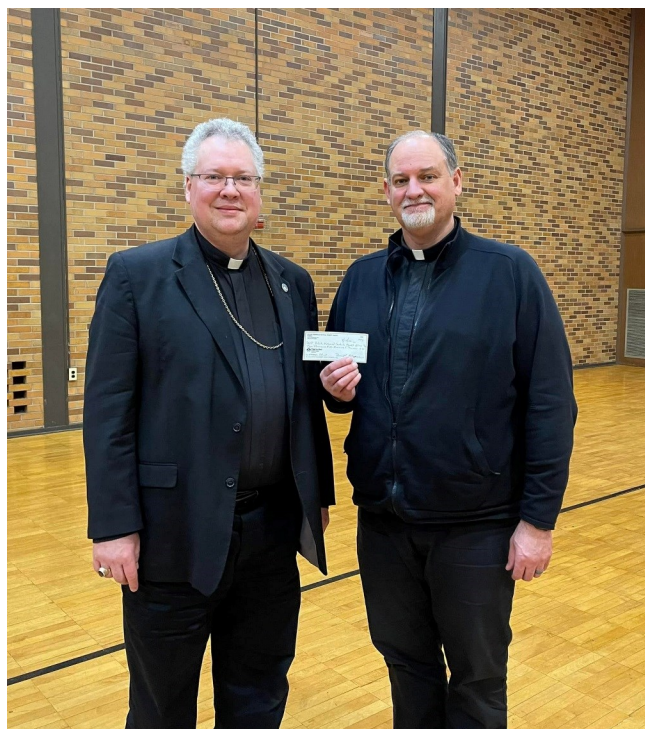


Holy Cross Ladies Society donates \$1,000 to our sister parishes in Poland to aid those fleeing from Ukraine.



PNU District 3 Director Maryann Zarek donates \$500 to aid those suffering in Ukraine.

While in Scranton attending the 2022 Annual Supreme Council of the P.N.C.C. meeting, Very Rev. Robert M. Nemkovich, Administrator of Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI, presented Most Rev. Anthony Mikovsky, Prime Bishop of the P.N.C.C., with a check for \$2,500 for Ukraine from the Polish American Mutual Benefit Association that meets at Holy Cross Parish in Central Falls, RI.



Blessed Trinity Parish Continues Helping Others

Fall River, MA

On April 19th Blessed Trinity Parish, Fall River, MA, sponsored a future Angels Anonymous Food Pantry that will help hundreds of families in need across the city of Fall River. The money to sponsor the event is from the parish's recent Lenten Almsgiving efforts. Also on this day some of the parish folks were able to help with the Angels Anonymous Food Pantry's food offload. Some heavy lifting for a great cause.



On April 20th Blessed Trinity Parish collected over \$6,000 to help Ukrainian Refugees in Poland at the sister parish of St. Barbara's in Krzykawa.



On April 23rd, Fr. Rob and Kathy Nemkovich were among those who were happy to help out with so many volunteers at the Saturday Fall River Earth Day clean up at Chew Park and Father Kelly Park in Fall River, MA. Thanks to those from the parish who helped so many others to clean up the city of Fall River! Pictured below is Fr. Sr. Rob Nemkovich, Fall River Mayor Paul Coogan, Kathy Nemkovich, MA State Rep Alan Silvia and FRPD and DCM Recycling Coordinator Charlie Denmead.



New Bedford and Fall River are rallying to aid Ukraine. Here's how you can help.

Matthew Ferreira — The Herald News, Fall River, MA, March 17, 2022

NEW BEDFORD — As saddened as he is by the tragic current events unfolding in Ukraine since Russia's invasion, the Rev. Rob Nemkovich of Blessed Trinity Parish in Fall River says it's hard not to be inspired by the response he's been witnessing on the South Coast.

"It's one thing to feel bad, but it's another to actually get out and do something," Nemkovich said referring to local efforts to help those displaced or otherwise impacted by the war with Russia. "Right now, we're seeing that people want to do something."

Local church bridges Fall River, Poland

On Sunday, Nemkovich will be presenting his congregation and community members with the opportunity to send support by contributing funds that will be wired the very next day directly to St. Barbara's, Blessed Trinity's sister parish in southern Poland. Nemkovich has been in contact with the parish since the war started last month and says their facilities have been "transformed" into a shelter for refugees who fled Ukraine.

"The team there is working extremely hard to do everything they can, so any money contributed is going directly to the boots on the ground; those who are face-to-face with the people who are coming out of these horrific situations and desperately need this help," Nemkovich said. "I talk to the priest there. They're just heartbroken at the things they're seeing. It's a shell-shock."

Nemkovich said shelter organizers from the parish will use funds wired from Fall River on Monday to continue buying much-needed supplies which are made available for refugees to browse through and collect in bags that the shelter provides. Those who wish to contribute to the fund may do so by bringing cash or check (made payable to cash) in-person to Blessed Trinity Parish, 1340 Plymouth Ave., Fall River, between 8 and 9:30 a.m.

The congregation at Blessed Trinity — which is a parish of the Polish National Catholic Church — also has a number of members with personal ties to Poland who are "helping out in a variety of ways" on their own, noted Nemkovich, who has visited the country three times.

For those who don't have cash or check handy, there's another locally-based platform set up to send monetary support to those in need from the war. Last week, United Way of Greater Fall River set up the #UnitedForUkraine Fund. It is the local branch's own online fundraising platform where donors — local or not — can send money electronically. Not unlike the above-mentioned church efforts, branch Executive Director Kim Smith says the funds will go into the hands of those working directly with refugees.

"United Way has branches in the places that the refugees are going to, so this will really help them fill the needs that they're seeing as they're on the ground working with people," said Smith.

With memories of COVID-19's sudden outbreak in 2020 still fresh in mind, Smith says she hopes the exposure United Way gained through its pandemic-related fundraising efforts will bolster the current #UnitedForUkraine initiative.

"When the war started, we had a lot of calls coming in with inquiries on what people could do to help, and I think a lot of the reason people turned right to us for that information is the result of the work we did during COVID," Smith said. "We raised over a million dollars in local response funds and more people started getting to know us as a trusted source for directing resources where they're going to have the most impact."



Western Diocese**Many Activities Underway at St. Mary's Parish****South Bend, IN**

This year began with a celebration of a Christmas/New Year's Brunch on January 9. The parish provided the entrees and beverages. Parishioners brought side dishes and desserts. Those attending shared the Wafer and enjoyed fellowship.

In February, Very Reverend Charles Zawistowski blessed throats in commemoration of St. Blaise. He also continued the blessing of homes for Epiphany.

During March, Lent Prayer Services in conjunction with two Pot Luck Dinners were held, as well as Stations of the Cross. The Chopin Choir began selling South Bend Chocolate Bunnies as well as Chocolate Eggs in preparation for Easter. The Ladies Adoration Society began selling tickets for a Spring Basket Drawing. The drawing will be on May 15. There is a large laundry basket and a smaller laundry basket containing many wonderful items for Spring as well as 3 gift cards at well-known local merchants. The Men's Club / YMSR met on March 19 for breakfast at a local restaurant.

Our Lord's Supper Remembrance was held on Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 p.m. This is always a very inspiring event remembering the origins of the Lord's Supper through scripture readings and actions. On April 9, parishioners gathered for Spring Cleaning of the church and grounds.

This year, St. Mary's Parish hosted the Blessing of Oils on Tuesday, April 12. The event was presided by Bishop Jerry Rafalko, Ordinary of the Western Diocese, along with about 12 Priests and local parishioners. The Special Mass was followed by dinner. This is a very important event in the Church and very meaningful.

With the news coverage of Ukraine and our nearby sister parishes near the border, our parishioners are participating in a drive in the National Church to support our churches in Poland who are helping the refugees from Ukraine. It has been heartbreaking to see the conditions taking place, especially for the women, children and elderly.

All of us at St. Mary's wish you a joyous Easter Season.

Submitted by Fran Lemanski

Local Polish Church Helping Ukrainian Refugees

By Naja Woods, ABC 5, South Bend, IN, March 29, 2022

A local Polish Catholic Church is doing what they can to help Ukrainian refugees fleeing their war-torn country to Poland for safety. St. Mary's Parish of the Polish National Catholic Church has teamed up with their sister parishes near the Polish border with Ukraine to help get essential items to refugees trying to escape their war-torn country.

"Our presiding bishop who is in Scranton, PA, sent out a letter a couple weeks ago and he was encouraging prayers and support and he said for those who are able if we could raise monetary contributions to be sent there," said Rev. Charles Zawistowski, the Pastor of St. Mary Parish.

Rev. Charles Zawistowski has been running the church for nearly three decades and said the devastation in Ukraine ignited action from his parish here at home.

"We're probably one of the smaller congregations in South Bend and yet just last week we've collected close to \$1,000 within our parish," he added. "We have two parishes in Poland that are in South Poland so they are right there where the need is."

The century-old church has a long-standing partnership with several sister parishes in Poland, where more than two million Ukrainians have fled to avoid the Russian invasion and ongoing bombardment of certain cities.

Which is why Rev. Charles said there was no hesitation when the time came to mobilize help.

"Everything is already established so we already have the apparatus so this an easy thing for us to do to raise the cash and send it to them so that they can disperse it."

The church said they will be wiring all donations directly to their sister parishes in Poland so that they can purchase necessary supplies there.

Holy Cross Mission Committee, Hamtramck- Ukraine Project

For the past several weeks our Mission Committee, with our pastor, Very Rev. Jarosław Nowak, has been collecting items to be delivered to Ukraine to aid in the war effort. The list of needed medical supply items was given to us by Immaculate Conception, the Ukrainian Catholic Church on McDougall in Hamtramck. As items are received and packed, they are taken to a large warehouse in Hamtramck to be shipped to Ukraine. Several boxes have already been delivered by our Mission team. This will be a continuous effort. Please help with this project if you can...every little bit helps those who are suffering so much devastation in their country. Thank you!

Nancy Wisbiski & Kathy Chockley



Clergy Appreciation Weekend

June 4-5, 2022

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who are laboring among you ... and to show esteem for them with special love on account of their work.” (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a)

Within the Polish National Catholic Church, the month of June has historically been honored as Sacred Vocations Month. It is the month to pray for an increase of Vocations to the Priesthood and Diaconate and also a month to honor our fathers, both spiritual and physical.

In this spirit the Supreme Council of the Polish National Catholic Church, together with the Bishops of the Church, has established the first Sunday in June as “Clergy Appreciation Weekend.” This year this celebration falls on the weekend of June 4th and 5th.

First and foremost I encourage all Polish National Catholics to pray for the clergy of our Holy Church. Think of all of the clergy throughout the years that have had an impact on your life. Pray for your present pastor and the clergy that “are laboring among you” so that you and the entire Church may be enlivened by their example and led to a closer relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

But I also ask that we each, whether individually or gathered within our parishes, also go a bit further as well to show some appreciation to the clergy of the Church. Let your pastor know how much you appreciate him and all of the things that he does in service to you, your family, your parish and our entire church. These clergy have been there in times that were both sorrowful and joyful, but through it all they walk with the members of the parish in their spiritual journey.

We can all think of various ways to show our appreciation: through words of thanks; or a small gift to show that you are thinking of him; or a special coffee hour to honor his work in the parish; or treating him and his family to a nice dinner; and on and on and on.

Through this effort we can certainly bring joy to the bishops, priests and deacons of our Church in showing this “special love on account of their work,” but we also might even encourage a young man to reflect on just how important this role is and then to consider a sacred vocation within the diaconate or priesthood as well.

On the first weekend in June, please join me in praying for all of the clergy, the bishops, priests and deacons of our Holy Church, and especially for those that have impacted your life. But also go a step further. Don’t just pray, but show them just how much you appreciate what they do.



Low Border Plants

| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <i>Forget-me-not</i> | - | <i>Eyes of Mary</i> |
| <i>Impatiens</i> | - | <i>Mother Love</i> |
| <i>Petunia</i> | - | <i>Our Lady's Praises</i> |
| <i>Sweet Alyssum</i> | - | <i>Flower of the Cross</i> |

Medium Mid-Bed Plants

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <i>Conflower</i> | - | <i>Mary's Crown</i> |
| <i>Marigold</i> | - | <i>Mary's Gold</i> |
| <i>Poppy</i> | - | <i>Christ's Blood Drops</i> |
| <i>Snapdragon</i> | - | <i>Infant Jesus' Shoes</i> |
| <i>Sweet Scabious</i> | - | <i>Mary's Pincushion</i> |
| <i>Zinnia</i> | - | <i>The Virgin</i> |

Tall Rear Plants

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Larkspur</i> | - | <i>Mary's Tears</i> |
| <i>Morning Glory</i> | - | <i>Our Lady's Mantle</i> |



**"Cast a Net"
Contest**

**Help your Parish by
Becoming fishers of members**

Here's the bait:

- 5 members & \$25,000 or more of insurance earns \$500
- 10 members & \$50,000 or more of insurance earns \$1000
- 15 members & \$75,000 or more of insurance earns \$1500
- 20 members & \$100,000 or more of insurance earns \$2,022

Contest runs from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022

A Whale of a Bonus:

- 20 Year Endowment policies over \$15,000 earn double member count
- Annuity Policies over \$25,000 earn triple member count

Contact your Branch Secretary, District Director or
The Home Office of the PNU at (1-800-724-6352)

For more details

